

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Replace the Abstract as follows:

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An axial thrust bearing for axially supporting a rotating shaft of an exhaust gas turbocharger connected to a lubricating oil circuit includes a profiled annular bearing surface which contacts an essentially flat sliding surface, the bearing surface having a plurality of radially extending grooves which are open on the outside circumference, a plurality of coplanar flat trap surfaces located between respective pairs of adjacent grooves, and a plurality of wedge surfaces located between adjacent pairs of respective grooves. Each wedge surface forms a lubricating oil gap which narrows circumferentially toward an adjacent flat trap surface and which narrows radially toward the outside circumference.